

II. AMENDMENT

A. Claims

Please replace all of the pending claims in the application with the following complete set of claims, of which claims 37-81 are new claims.

1. (Original) A reciprocating saw, comprising:

a motor housing for containing a motor, said motor housing including a first end and a second end;

a linkage disposed in the motor housing, said linkage for linearly reciprocating a straight cutting blade extending generally from the first end of the motor housing;

a handle member pivotally coupled to said second end for rotation substantially about a main axis of said motor housing; and

a securing mechanism for locking the rotational position of the handle member,

wherein the handle member and the securing mechanism are configured to lock the handle member in at least one predefined rotational orientation with respect to said motor housing.

2. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, wherein the handle member and said motor housing are coupled via a rib and a groove disposed about the peripheral portions of the interface between the handle member and said motor housing.

3. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, wherein the handle member is formed of a pair of shell portions including at least one of a rib and a groove for coupling with a complimentary structure included on said motor housing.

4. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, wherein the securing mechanism is a biased latch for engaging a catch included on said motor housing.

5. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 4, wherein said motor housing includes a generally annular rib having recessed portions at predefined orientations for locking by the latch.

6. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 5, wherein recessed portions of the rib are located at approximately 0° (zero degrees), 90° (ninety degrees) and 180° (one hundred eighty degrees) in a first direction, and 90° (ninety degrees) in a second direction.

7. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, wherein the handle member is pivotable between 180° (one hundred eighty degrees) in a first direction, and 90° (ninety degrees) in a second direction.

8. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, wherein the handle member is generally D-shaped.

9. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, further comprising a switch mounted to the handle member for controlling the flow of electricity to the motor.

10. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 9, wherein the switch is a bar switch extending along an interior end portion of a D-shaped handle member.

11. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, further comprising a stop connected to at least one of the handle member and said motor housing, said stop for preventing full rotation of the handle member.

12. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 1, wherein the handle member and said motor housing are connected via a center hub.

13. (Original) A reciprocating saw, comprising:

a motor housing for containing a motor, said motor housing including a first end and a second end;

a linkage disposed in the motor housing, said linkage for linearly reciprocating a straight cutting blade extending generally from the first end of the motor housing;

a connector mounted to the second end, said connector including a generally annularly ribbed end, substantially opposite the motor housing;

a handle member pivotally coupled to said connector about said generally annularly ribbed end for rotation substantially about a main axis of said motor housing; and

a securing mechanism for locking the rotational position of the handle member,

wherein the handle member and the securing mechanism are configured to lock the handle member in at least one predefined rotational orientation with respect to said motor housing.

14. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 13, wherein the handle member is formed of a pair of shell portions including at least one of a rib and a groove for coupling with the generally annularly ribbed end of the connector.

15. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 13, wherein the securing mechanism is a biased latch for engaging a catch included on said connector.

16. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 15, wherein said connector's generally annular ribbed end includes recessed portions at predefined orientations for locking by the latch.

17. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 16, wherein recessed portions of the ribbed end are located at approximately 0° (zero degrees), 90° (ninety degrees) and 180° (one hundred eighty degrees) in a first direction, and 90° (ninety degrees) in a second direction.

18. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 13, wherein the handle member is generally D-shaped.

19. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 13, further comprising a switch mounted to the handle member for controlling the flow of electricity to the motor.

20. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 19, wherein the switch is a bar switch extending along an interior end portion of a D-shaped handle member.

21. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 13, further comprising a stop connected to at least one of the handle member and said connector, said stop for preventing full rotation of the handle member.

22. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 13, wherein said connector is configured to break-away from said motor housing upon application of sufficient force.

23. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 13, wherein the handle member and said connector are coupled about their peripheries.

24. (Original) A reciprocating saw, comprising:

a motor housing for containing a motor, said motor housing including a first end and a second end;

a linkage disposed in the motor housing, said linkage for linearly reciprocating a straight cutting blade extending generally from the first end of the motor housing;

a D-shaped handle pivotally coupled adjacent said second end for rotation substantially about a main axis of said motor housing, said handle being formed of two shell portions; and

a securing mechanism for locking the rotational position of the handle,

wherein the handle and the securing mechanism are configured to lock the handle in at least one predefined rotational orientation located at approximately 0° (zero degrees), 90° (ninety degrees) and 180° (one hundred degrees) in a first direction, and 90° (ninety degrees) in a second direction with respect to said motor housing.

25. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 24, wherein the securing mechanism is a biased latch for engaging a catch included on said motor housing.

26. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 25, wherein said motor housing includes a generally annular rib having recessed portions at predefined orientations for engagement by the latch.

27. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 24, further comprising a switch mounted to the handle for controlling the flow of electricity to the motor.

28. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 27, wherein the switch is a bar switch extending along an interior end portion of a generally D-shaped handle.

29. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 24, further comprising a stop connected to at least one of the handle and said motor housing, said stop for preventing full rotation of the handle.

30. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 24, further comprising a connector mounted to the second end, said connector having at least one generally annular rib for engaging a corresponding structure included on said handle shell portions.

31. (Original) A reciprocating saw, comprising:

a motor housing for containing a motor, said motor housing including a first end and a second end;

a linkage disposed in the motor housing, said linkage for linearly reciprocating a straight cutting blade extending generally from the first end of the motor housing;

means for pivotal grasping by a user; and

means for securing the grasping means in at least one predefined rotational orientation with respect to said motor housing.

32. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 31, wherein the securing means is a biased latch for engaging a catch included on said motor housing.

33. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 31, wherein the securing means is configured to position the grasping means at approximately 0° (zero degrees), 90° (ninety degrees) and 180° (one hundred eighty degrees) in a first direction, and 90° (ninety degrees) in a second direction.

34. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 31, wherein the grasping means is generally D-shaped.

35. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 31, further comprising a switch mounted to the grasping means for controlling the flow of electricity to the motor.

36. (Original) The reciprocating saw of claim 31, further comprising a stop configured for preventing full rotation of the handle member.

37. (New) A power tool comprising:

a spindle for supporting a tool element;

a body defining a pivot axis and housing a motor and a drive mechanism driven by the motor, the drive mechanism selectively driving the spindle, the body having a forward end supporting the spindle and a rearward end; and

a grip engageable by a hand of an operator, the grip being connected to the rearward end of the body for pivoting movement relative to the body about the pivot axis, the grip having a first end and a second end and defining a grip axis extending between the first end and the second end, the grip axis being oriented at an angle of between thirty degrees and ninety degrees relative to the pivot axis, wherein the power tool is a reciprocating saw.

38. (New) The power tool of claim 37, wherein the grip axis is oriented at a substantially perpendicular angle relative to the pivot axis.

39. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 37, further comprising a locking assembly for locking the grip in a pivoted position relative to the body.

40. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 39, wherein the locking assembly includes a recess defined by one of the body and the grip and a projection defined by an other of

the body and the grip, the projection being engageable in the recess to lock the grip in a pivoted position relative to the body.

41. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 40, wherein the locking assembly includes a first recess and a second recess defined by the one of the body and the grip, and wherein the projection is selectively engageable in the first recess to lock the grip in a first pivoted position relative to the body and in the second recess to lock the grip in a second pivoted position relative to the body.

42. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 37, wherein the grip is a D-shaped handle.

43. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 37, further comprising a switch assembly operable to electrically connect the motor to a power source, at least a portion of the switch assembly being supported on the grip for pivoting movement about the pivot axis with the grip.

44. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 43, further comprising a wiring arrangement electrically connecting the switch assembly to the motor and accommodating pivoting movement of the switch assembly with the grip about the pivot axis and relative to the motor.

45. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 37, further comprising a grip portion provided by the body and engageable by an other hand of the operator, the grip portion being substantially parallel to the pivot axis.

46. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 37, wherein a radial annular projection extends circumferentially around at least a portion of a circumference of one of the rearward end of the body and the grip, wherein another of the rearward end of the body and the grip define a radial annular groove extending circumferentially around at least a portion of a circumference of the other of the rearward end of the body and the grip, the annular projection being engaged with and travelling in the annular groove during pivoting movement of the grip about the pivot axis.

47. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 37, further comprising a pivot-limiting assembly for limiting pivoting movement of the grip relative to the body from a first pivoted position beyond a second pivoted position.

48. (New) A reciprocating saw comprising:

a reciprocatable spindle for supporting a saw blade for reciprocating sawing movement;

a body defining a pivot axis and housing a motor and a drive mechanism driven by the motor, the drive mechanism selectively driving the spindle, the body having a forward end supporting the spindle and a rearward end; and

a grip engageable by a hand of an operator, the grip being connected to the rearward end of the body for pivoting movement relative to the body about the pivot axis.

49. (New) The reciprocating saw of claim 48, wherein the grip has a first end and a second end and defines a grip axis extending between the first end and the second end, and wherein the grip axis is oriented at a non-parallel angle relative to the pivot axis.

50. (New) The reciprocating saw of claim 49, wherein the pivot axis and the grip axis define an angle of between thirty degrees and ninety degrees.

51. (New) The reciprocating saw of claim 49, wherein the grip axis is oriented at a substantially perpendicular angle relative to the pivot axis.

52. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 48, further comprising a locking assembly for locking the grip in a pivoted position relative to the body.

53. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 48, wherein the grip is a D-shaped handle.

54. (New) A reciprocating saw comprising:

a reciprocatable spindle for supporting a saw blade for reciprocating sawing movement;

a body defining a longitudinal pivot axis and housing a motor and a drive mechanism

driven by the motor, the drive mechanism selectively driving the spindle, the body

having a forward end supporting the spindle and a rearward end; and

a D-shaped handle engageable by a hand of an operator, the D-shaped handle being

connected to the rearward end of the body for pivoting movement relative to the

body about the pivot axis.

55. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 54, wherein the handle axis is oriented at a substantially perpendicular angle relative to the pivot axis.

56. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 54, further comprising a locking assembly for locking the handle in a pivoted position relative to the body.

57. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 56, wherein the locking assembly includes a recess defined by one of the body and the handle and a projection defined by another of the body and the handle, the projection being engageable in the recess to lock the handle in a pivoted position relative to the body.

58. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 57, wherein the locking assembly includes a first recess and a second recess defined by the one of the body and the handle, and wherein the projection is selectively engageable in the first recess to lock the handle in a first pivoted position relative to the body and in the second recess to lock the handle in a second pivoted position relative to the body.

59. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 54, further comprising a switch assembly operable to electrically connect the motor to a power source, at least a portion of the switch assembly being supported on the handle for pivoting movement about the pivot axis with the handle.

60. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 59, further comprising a wiring arrangement electrically connecting the switch assembly to the motor and accommodating pivoting movement of the switch assembly with the handle about the pivot axis and relative to the motor.

61. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 54, further comprising a grip portion provided by the body and engageable by an other hand of the operator, the grip portion being substantially parallel to the pivot axis.

62. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 54, wherein a radial annular projection extends circumferentially around at least a portion of a circumference of one of the rearward end of the body and the handle, wherein another of the rearward end of the body and the handle define a radial annular groove extending circumferentially around at least a portion of a circumference of the other of the rearward end of the body and the handle, the annular projection being engaged with and travelling in the annular groove during pivoting movement of the handle about the pivot axis.

63. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 54, further comprising a pivot-limiting assembly for limiting pivoting movement of the handle relative to the body from a first pivoted position beyond a second pivoted position.

64. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pivot-limiting assembly includes a first pivot-limiting member supported by one of the handle and the body and a second pivot-limiting member defined by another of the handle and the body, the first pivot-limiting member being engageable with the second pivot-limiting member to prevent movement of the handle relative to the body beyond the second pivoted position.

65. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 63, wherein the pivot-limiting assembly prevents pivoting movement of the handle relative to the body, in a first direction, from

the first pivoted position beyond the second pivoted position and, in a second direction opposite to the first direction, from the first pivoted position beyond the second pivoted position.

66. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 65, wherein the first pivot-limiting member has a first surface engageable with the second pivot-limiting member during pivoting movement in the first direction and a second surface engageable with the second pivot-limiting member during pivoting movement in the second direction.

67. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 66, wherein the first pivot-limiting member is movable between a first limit position, in which the second pivoted position is defined by engagement of the first pivot-limiting member and the second pivot-limiting member, and a second limit position in which the second pivoted position is defined by engagement of the first pivot-limiting member and the second pivot-limiting member.

68. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 67, wherein the first pivot-limit member is pivotable between the first limit position and the second limit position about an axis substantially parallel to the pivot axis.

69. (New) A reciprocating saw comprising:

a reciprocatable spindle for supporting a saw blade for reciprocating sawing movement;

a body defining a pivot axis and housing a motor and a drive mechanism driven by the motor, the drive mechanism selectively driving the spindle, the body having a forward end supporting the spindle and a rearward end; and

a grip engageable by a hand of an operator, the grip being connected to the rearward end of the body for pivoting movement relative to the body about the pivot axis;

wherein a radial annular projection extends circumferentially around at least a portion of a circumference of one of the rearward end of the body and the grip, and wherein another of the rearward end of the body and the grip define a radial annular groove extending circumferentially around at least a portion of a circumference of the other of the rearward end of the body and the grip, the annular projection being in engaged with and travelling in annular groove during pivoting movement of the grip about the pivot axis.

70. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 69, further comprising a locking assembly for locking the grip in a pivoted position relative to the body.

71. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 69, wherein the grip is a D-shaped handle.

72. (New) A reciprocating saw comprising:

a reciprocatable spindle for supporting a saw blade for reciprocating sawing movement;

a body defining a longitudinal pivot axis and housing a motor and a drive mechanism driven by the motor, the drive mechanism selectively driving the spindle, the body having a forward end supporting the spindle and a rearward end; and

a grip engageable by a hand of an operator, the grip being connected to the rearward end of the body for pivoting movement relative to the body about the pivot axis.

73. (New) The reciprocating saw of claim 72, wherein the grip has a first end and a second end and defines a grip axis extending between the first end and the second end, and wherein the grip axis is oriented at a non-parallel angle relative to the pivot axis.

74. (New) The reciprocating saw of claim 73, wherein the pivot axis and the grip axis define an angle of between thirty degrees and ninety degrees.

75. (New) The reciprocating saw of claim 73, wherein the grip axis is oriented at a substantially perpendicular angle relative to the pivot axis.

76. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 72, further comprising a locking assembly for locking the grip in a pivoted position relative to the body.

77. (New) The reciprocating saw as claimed in claim 72, wherein the grip is a D-shaped handle.

78. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 72, further comprising a switch assembly operable to electrically connect the motor to a power source, at least a portion of the switch assembly being supported on the grip for pivoting movement about the pivot axis with the grip.

79. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 78, further comprising a wiring arrangement electrically connecting the switch assembly to the motor and accommodating

pivoting movement of the switch assembly with the grip about the pivot axis and relative to the motor.

80. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 72, wherein the grip is connected to the rearward end of the body for pivoting movement relative to the motor about the pivot axis.

81. (New) The power tool as claimed in claim 72, wherein the grip is connected to the rearward end of the body for pivoting movement relative to the drive mechanism about the pivot axis.

III. CONCLUSION


The fee for the new claims is included in the enclosed check. If any additional fees are required for this amendment, or at any time during the pendency of this application, authorization is hereby granted to charge those fees to the undersigned representative's deposit account no. 50-0206.

Respectfully submitted,

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